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Letter dated 14 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the formation of the Transitional Government in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, issued on 2 July 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

03-42938 (E) 160703

Annex to the letter dated 14 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the formation of the Transitional Government in the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued on 2 July 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the formation of the Transitional Government of National Union in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This is a fundamental step in the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and marks the acme of the path mapped out by the inter-Congolese dialogue and the Sun City and Pretoria agreements.

The European Union calls on the new Transitional Government to take the necessary action to achieve the objectives of the transitional period as laid down in the Pretoria agreements of 17 December 2002, in particular the holding of free and transparent elections at all levels permitting the establishment of a democratic constitutional regime, and the formation of a restructured and integrated national army.

The European Union stands ready to support the Transitional Government's activities by means of concrete initiatives to assist in rebuilding a stable Congolese State able to guarantee the safety of the Congolese people, national reconciliation and stability in the region.

The European Union commends the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the inter-Congolese dialogue, Mr. Moustapha Niasse, who facilitated the formation of the new Government, and reaffirms its readiness to work with the United Nations and the African Union towards an international conference for peace in the Great Lakes region.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.